



**Testimony in Support of HB 5342  
An Act Concerning Membership of the Low-Income Energy Advisory Board**

**March 10, 2022  
Human Service Committee**

Good afternoon Chairman Abercrombie, Chairman Moore and members of the Human Service Committee.

This testimony is submitted on behalf of the Center for Children's Advocacy (CCA), a non-profit organization affiliated with the University of Connecticut School of Law **in support of HB 5342 An Act Concerning Membership in the Low-Income Energy Advisory Board (LIEAB)**. We urge the Committee to vote in favor of this bill.

CCA provides holistic legal services to Connecticut's poorest and most vulnerable children and their families. Our Medical/Legal Partnership Project provides assistance to financially and medically vulnerable residents and the area professionals who support them. A focus of this project is access to state and federal benefits programs with a particular emphasis on access to energy assistance, including the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) administered by the LIEAB.

**Expanding the membership of the Low-Income Energy Advisory Board is critical to meet the needs of Connecticut's At Risk Residents.**

LIHEAP is a critical lifeline for Connecticut residents – it provides direct assistance to residents to support energy costs as well as access to energy programs that promote energy security and efficiency. The additional representatives proposed in this bill will enhance and expand the expertise of the LIEAB. Financially at-risk residents require a range of basic needs programs with complex and intersecting eligibility requirements. Including agencies with extensive background in housing, weatherization and water issues will expand the necessary knowledge base of the Board. In particular, adding the Center for Children's Advocacy will add extensive experience in the areas of state and federal benefits programs and the issues of residents with disabilities. Further, the Center has experience advocating for these residents in related regulatory proceedings.

For these reasons, **the Center for Children's Advocacy strongly supports the passage of HB 5342.**

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

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